

# III

## VISION, MISSION, PHILOSOPHY

### Vision

Twenty years into the 21st Century, Louisiana will have a vibrant, balanced economy; a fully engaged, well-educated workforce; and a quality of life that places it among the top ten states in which to live, work, visit, and do business.

### Mission

**Louisiana: Vision 2020** communicates to the citizens of Louisiana a long-term strategic economic development plan to expand and diversify our economy. It demonstrates to those outside Louisiana the state's commitment to reinventing itself. It shows the state's commitment to raising income levels for all people and combating poverty. It analyzes Louisiana's competitive position and builds upon existing strengths. It will continue to serve as road map and field guide outlining a comprehensive and visionary set of economic development policies that show the path to a vibrant Louisiana of 2020.

### Philosophy

Economic development is primarily a private sector phenomenon, the offspring of an active free enterprise system. Actions taken by government should be designed to foster private development, not to supplant it.

Government should attend to infrastructure needs: education, public sector research and development, transportation, and communications. Appropriations should be viewed as investments in the economic future, not as expenditures. Government should provide a stable and fair tax, regulatory, and legal environment in which business may be done efficiently and profitably. In many cases, strong, effective public-private partnerships should be utilized to achieve economic development objectives.

Louisiana must continue with its significant and sustained efforts to change the way it does business. While the new Louisiana called for in **Vision 2020** will be a better place economically, educationally, and environmentally, it should remain identifiably Louisiana, a place like no other.